Queer History 101

By Scythe Singh-Sousa

Scientific Humanitarian Committee (1897 - 1914)

Queer history is broad, deep, and (un)surprisingly leftist! One of the first international LGBTQ+ rights organizations was the **Scientific Humanitarian Committee. Founded by Magnus Hirschfeld** this organization **composed of influential leftists (mainly anarchists), educators, sexologists, psychiatrists, etc.** This organization played a considerable role in both **challenging state power and the Catholic church's influence (opposing sodomy laws, abolishing German penal code 175).** It's largest contribution however was giving both transness and homosexuality a scientific basis to affirm and promote social recognition.

Notable publications:

- Yearbook for Intermediate Sexual Types (Vol.1 1899), Vol. 5 (1903), Vol. 8 (1906)
- Sappho and Socrates (1896) by Magnus Hirschfeld which mentions asexuality and linking it to the concept of "sexual anesthesia".

Special thanks to Owen for assigning wonderful queer icons as dogs!

Dogmus Hirschfeld

Emma Goldman

Max Spohr

Communist Parties & Queers

In the aftermath of the second world war, many queer people went towards the communist parties of both the USSR and Maoist China as Anarchist movements had waned due to state repression. In 1922 and through most of Soviet history the USSR is credited for creating the first theoretical "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as homosexuals and trans people were banned or expelled from the party.

"In the case of STAR and the budding trans liberation portion of t
movement the severe fractionation of the movement unveiled its
the 1973 Christopher Street Liberation Day rally. The bitterly pub
feud—Sylvia Rivera storming the stage to speak out for imprison
Trans folks and street youth, Jean O'Leary of the Lesbian Femin
Liberation condemning men who impersonated women for
entertainment and profit, and Lee Brewster of the Queens Liber
Front castigating lesbians for their refusal to let drag queens be
themselves—thereby exposed the dramatically contrasting views
the meaning of gay liberation."

Jean O'Leary's aforementioned speech (not playing this because it's **pretty transphobic towards Sylvia Rivera)**

- Jerimarie Liesegang (1950 - 2
Tyranny of the State and Trar
Liberation

Stonewalling schism

Revolutionary Orgs:

- Gay Liberation Front
- Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries
- Queens Liberation Front

Reformist Orgs:

- Mattachine S
- Daughters of
- ONE Inc.
- Gay Activist A

During Stonewall a schism occurred: Do we go reformist or revolutionary? Sylvia Rivera said following in a passionate 1973 speech titled "Y'all Better Quiet Down".

"Being queer is not about a right to privacy; it is about the freedom to be public, to just be who we are. It means everyday fighting oppression; homophobia, racism, misogyny, the bigotry of religious hypocrites and our own self-hatred.[sic] Being queer means leading a different sort of life. It's not about the mainstream, profit-margins, patriotism, patriarchy or being assimilated. It's not about executive directors, privilege and elitism. It's about being on the margins, defining ourselves; [sic] Everyone of us is a world of infinite possibility. We are an army because we have to be. We are an army because we are so powerful. [sic] And we are an army of lovers because it is we who know what love is. Desire and lust, too. We invented them. We come out of the closet, face the rejection of society, face firing squads, just to love each other!"

- Excerpt from the infamous pamphlet published by Queer Nation an LGBTQ+ direct action organization

ACT UP against AIDS

Formed in 1987 the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power is a grassroots political organization that has been advocating to improve the lives of people living with AIDS through civil disobedience and direct action!

One of the key people in this organization was activist Larry Kramer claiming that the inaction taken by Ronald Reagan and other officials in the administration was tantamount to genocide.

One of the most influential texts to come from the organization was a text simply known as "Queers Read This!".

CAMP TRANS!

Proto-TERFs vs Transfeminism:
In 1991 in response to Michfest
"Womyn-Born-Womyn" policy.

Farew

Gay Shame + DUMBA

In 1998 due to the commercialization of Gay Pride rose the counterculture movement Gay Shame. The movement is known for creating alternative events to pride parades due to their increased commercialization and copious amounts of corporate sponsorships.

Many of these events have been held in the DUMBA collective living space which was active from 1998 - 2007 in which film, music, etc. DUMBA was known to host both All-Ages events and Adult only events.

Queers Bash Back!

Bash Back! was an Insurrectionary Queer Anarchist network with various active cells around the united states from 2007 - 2011.

Born out of both Anti-RNC & Anti-DNC organizing events.

Their most notable act of direct action was interrupting the church service of Mount Hope Church in November 2008 where members shouted "it's okay to be gay", "Jesus was a homo" all the while throwing pamphlets, glitter, and condoms. The action ended with an 18-inch "Bash Back!" banner being displayed and 2 women ran to the pulpit and kissed.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Queer Ultraviolence (Anthology)
- Pink and Black Attack (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Thank you for listening and participati
I hope you learned something new and h
a wonderful day!!

- with love, Scythe Singh-Sousa